

NOTE ON THE GRAMMA LORETO OF POEY.

By THEODORE GILL.

I.

In 1868 Professor Poey described a new generic type of fishes under the name *Gramma loreto*, and referred it to the family *Percidae* and subfamily *Lutjanini*, next to *Mesoprion (Lutjanus)*.

In 1871 Professor Poey detached the genus *Gramma* from the family *Percidae** and described it in an appendix to that family. He did not indicate his views as to its relationship, but noticed a resemblance to the *Pomacentrids*, from which, however, it was said to differ in the separation of the lower pharyngeal bones.

In 1875 the same naturalist, in the preliminary list of families and genera of his "Enumeratio Piscium Cubensium" (p. 5), retained *Gramma* in the family *Percidae*, but as "incertæ sedis."

In 1875 Dr. von Bleeker referred the genus to the family "*Pseudochromidoidei*" and subfamily "*Cichlopsini*."

In 1887 Professor Jordan created a new family name for the genus (*Grammidae*), which he interposed between the *Lobotidae* and *Sparidae*.

I had come to a similar conclusion as Dr. Bleeker long before the appearance of his articles, as to the family relationship of *Gramma*, although inclined to refer it nearer to the *Plesiopinae* than the *Cichlopinae*. Had Professor Jordan been aware of this view as to its relationship, he would probably have adopted it. In order that the question may be opened and investigated, I call attention to these facts, and add references to the notice and descriptions of the *Gramma loreto* and the family *Pseudochromididae*. That family urgently needs investigation. Nothing is known of the anatomy of the various genera that have been referred to, and it may be that it is not a homogeneous one. Dr. Günther and his followers have indeed widely separated its constituents and have associated them with forms with which they have apparently little affinity. If we may judge by appearances, however, and the gradation in the proportions of the spinous and rayed portions of the dorsal, the genera referred to the family by Bleeker appear to be at least related, but whether as members of one family or of two remains to be ascertained. The resolution of such questions would be a boon to ichthyology. Unfortunately the poverty of collections accessible to me prevents my own investigation into the matter.

* J'en ai détaché aussi les genres *Centropomus* et *Rhypticus* comme types de familles distinctes; et les genres anomaux de Günther (*l. c.*, p. 51), *Pogonoperca* et *Prionodes*, ainsi que mon genre *Gramma*, non moins anormal. Voyez les observations de Mr. Gill, Proc. Phil., 1861, p. 46. (*Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist.*, N. Y., v. 10, pp. 32, 33.)

II.

SYNONYMY OF GRAMMA LORETO.

- Gramma loreto* POEY, Repert. Físico-Nat. de Cuba, t. 2., pp. 296 (not 206), 461 (not 561), 1868.
Gramma loreto POEY, Annals Lye. Nat. Hist. N. Y., v. 10, p. 75, pl. 1, upper fig., 1871.
Gramma loreto POEY, Anal. Soc. Esp. de Hist. Nat., t. 4, p. 32, 1875.
Gramma loreto BLEEKER, Natuurk. Verh. k. Akad., Amsterdam, v. 15 (*Pseudochromis doides*, p. 3), 1875.
Gramma loreto JORDAN, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, p. 582, 1887 (name only).

The type of this species was given by Professor Poey to the Cambridge "Museum of Comparative Zoology," and is doubtless still to be seen there.

III.

SYNONYMY OF FAMILY PSEUDOCHEMIDIDÆ.

- =*Pseudochromides* MÜLLER & TROSCHEL, Horæ Ichthyologicæ, part 3, p. 22, 1849 (includes *Plesiops*, *Pseudochromis*, *Cichlops*).
 =*Pseudochromide* RICHARDSON, Encycl. Brit., 8th ed., v. 12, p. 238, 1856 (includes *Cichlops*, *Plesiops*, *Pseudochromis*).
 =*Pseudochromidoidei* BLEEKER, Enum. Sp. Piscium Arch. Ind., p. xviii, 1859 (includes *Pseudochromis*, *Cichlops*, *Plesiops*, *Pseudoplesiops*).
 ×*Pseudochromids* (*Pseudochromida*) RICHARDSON, Museum Nat. Hist., p. 120, 1865 (includes *Cichlops*, *Pseudochromis*, *Pseudoplesiops*, *Notothenia*).
 =*Pseudochromides* KLUNZINGER, Verhandl. k. k. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. Wien, v. 21, p. 517, 1871 (includes *Plesiops*, *Pseudochromis*).
 >*Plesiopida* GILL, Art. Fam. Fishes, p. 11, 1872; Johnson's New Univ. Cycl., v. 3, p. 1283, 1877.
 =*Pseudochromidoïdes* BLEEKER, Natuurk. Verhandl. k. Akad., Amsterdam, D. 15, 1875.
 =*Pseudochromidoidei* BLEEKER, Arch. Néerland. Sc. exactes et nat., t. 11, p. 320, 1876.
 ×*Pseudochromides* DAY, Fishes of India, p. 266, 1876 (includes *Opisthognathus*, *Pseudochromis*).
 >*Pseudochromides* KLUNZINGER, Fische des Rothen Meeres, 1. Th., p. 123, 1884.
 >*Grammida* JORDAN, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1886, p. 582, 1887.
Naudida s. f. (*Plesiopina*) GÜNTHER.
Trachinide s. f. (*Pseudochromides* pt.) GÜNTHER.

The family is divided by Dr. Bleeker into three phalanges, viz, Phalanx CICHLOPSINI, with *Cichlops*, *Pseudochromis*, *Pseudogramma*, *Gramma* (erroneously said to have been established in 1871), and *Trachinops*; Phalanx PLESIOPINI, with *Plesiops* and *Paraplesiops*; Phalanx PSEUDOPLESIOPINI, with *Pseudoplesiops*.